

Message Text

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P 081416Z AUG 78
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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:SNAR, AU

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIALS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL

1. FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF THE STATEMENT ON AUSTRIA FROM
THE 977 EDITION OF THE UNCLASSIFIED SUBJECT BOOK
ISSUED BY S/NM. BEGIN TEXT:

A. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM: AUSTRIA IS A NATURAL
TRANSIT POINT FOR ILLICIT DRUGS FROM BOTH THE MIDDLE EAST
AND FAR EAST. THESE DRUGS ARE DESTINED FOR WESTERN
EUROPE, CANADA, AND THE UNITED STATES. ALL PORTS OF
ENTRY ARE SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO FREQUENT TOURIST AND
VISITOR TRAVEL PEAKS OF MASSIVE PROPORTIONS, AT WHICH
TIMES ANY PRACTICABLE LEVEL OF CUSTOMS CONTROL WOULD NOT
SUFFICE AS A COMPLETE DETERRENT. EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT
ILLICIT DRUGS ARE NEITHER PRODUCED NOR PROCESSED IN
AUSTRIA. EVIDENCE IS GROWING, HOWEVER, THAT DRUG ABUSE
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IS BECOMING A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM AMONG AUSTRIANS THEM-
SELVES, SEEMINGLY SPREADING FROM THE FOREIGN VISITORS
AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES TO WHICH IT WAS, AT FIRST,
LARGELY CONFINED.

B. DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS ON PART OF HOST COUNTRY: AUSTRIA
WISHES TO HAVE ITS COUNTRY OPEN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO

FOREIGN VISITORS. INDEED, ITS ECONOMIC WELL BEING REQUIRES A SUBSTANTIAL INFLUX OF TOURISTS AND BUSINESS VISITORS EACH YEAR. THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEM INVOLVING THE USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS, FUNDING REQUIREMENTS, AND THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN OBTAINING COOPERATION WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, ARE ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING FACTORS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO COUNTER THE TRANSIT PROBLEM. STILL, THE GOVERNMENT IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING, EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NO POPULAR DEMAND FOR ACTION. AUSTRIA HAS NOT RATIFIED THE SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, ITS AMENDING PROTOCOL, OR THE CONVENTION OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES; HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AGREED IN EARLY 1977 TO SUBMIT THE SINGLE CONVENTION AND ITS AMENDING PROTOCOL TO PARLIAMENT FOR RATIFICATION. DRUG OFFENSES ARE NOT COVERED IN ITS EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES. WHERE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS DO COOPERATE INTERNATIONALLY.

C. US PROGRAMS: THERE IS A DEA OFFICE IN VIENNA, LOCATED IN THE EMBASSY. US ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING HAVE INCREASED AUSTRIA'S CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS AND USERS. THIS COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRIA IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AND TO RESULT IN EVEN MORE AWARENESS ON THE PART OF AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS OF THE ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS INVOLVED. END TEXT

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2. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO REVIEW THIS TEXT AND REDRAFT, AS NECESSARY, AN UPDATED VERSION FOR THE 1978 BRIEFING BOOK. SUGGESTED REVISION REQUESTED BY COB AUGUST 10. THE SAME FORMAT WILL BE RETAINED. CHRISTOPHER

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